

From the beginning of Operation Desert Shield, the American military showed that it is capable of planning and executing tremendously complex and sensitive operations. Our success in the Persian Gulf highlighted not only the superiority of American technology but also our troops' ability to employ these remarkable tools. Moreover, the conflict in the Gulf reminded all Americans that we can rely on our citizen-soldiers, the Reservists and National Guard members who responded so well when called upon to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their comrades in the regular components of the active duty military forces. We also saw that the American employer is prepared to stand behind the employee who is called to active military service and to safeguard that individual's employment rights while he or she is away.

This month, as we honor our Nation's veterans, let us also recognize the value of recruiting and hiring these Americans in the workplace. Our veterans have developed special knowledge and skills through their military service, and they clearly possess the drive and the discipline that are needed to help keep American business competitive in the international arena.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 280, has designated the week of November 10 through November 16, 1991, as "Hire a Veteran Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of November 10 through November 16, 1991, as Hire a Veteran Week. I encourage all Americans—in particular, employers, labor leaders, and public officials—to support the campaign to increase the employment of men and women who have served our country in the armed forces.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6374 of November 13, 1991

National Red Ribbon Month, 1991

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

During the month of November, we Americans pause to count our many blessings—including the love of family and friends, the joy of freedom and security, and, of course, the gift of life itself. Thus, the holiday season that traditionally begins on Thanksgiving is a very special time of celebration and renewal.

Tragically, however, this time of peace and joy will become a time of mourning for far too many American families as a result of alcohol-re-

lated traffic accidents. Countless hopes and dreams will be destroyed this holiday season when drinking turns deadly behind the wheel.

Drunk driving often makes headlines during the holidays, but we must remember that this scourge is a year-round public health problem. Indeed, the Department of Transportation reports that traffic accidents remain the single leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 5 and 32, and that almost half of these fatalities involve alcohol. In 1990 alone, more than 22,000 people died in alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents—an average of one person every 24 minutes. Each year, another 345,000 persons are injured in drunk driving incidents.

The toll that alcohol-related accidents takes on Americans between the ages of 16 and 20 is especially alarming. Although in most States it is illegal for minors to purchase alcoholic beverages in any form, nearly half of all traffic fatalities in this age group stem from alcohol-related accidents. In 1990 alone, the lives of some 3,361 young men and women—potential scientists, physicians, teachers, and parents—were violently cut short.

The news is not all bad, however. In recent years, we have made encouraging progress in our efforts to stop drunk and drugged driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), alcohol-related fatalities among all adults have declined approximately 13 percent since 1982. The NHTSA also reports that, since 1984, when the Congress called on all States to raise their minimum legal drinking age to 21, alcohol-related deaths among youth have likewise dropped. Indeed, the law has saved the lives of about 1,000 young Americans between the ages of 16 and 20 every year.

This progress has been made possible by a combination of tougher laws at the Federal, State, and local levels and by concerted public awareness campaigns in both the public and private sectors. Nevertheless, we still have much work to do. Accordingly, our National Health Objectives for the year 2000 include targets for reducing the number of alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities. We remain firmly resolved to reduce underage drinking, and we will continue to seek both the enactment and the enforcement of tougher laws against driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Millions of concerned individuals across the United States have rallied in support of these and other measures against drunk driving. This month, the 3,000,000 members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will launch a major public awareness campaign by asking Americans to "Tie One on for Safety" during the upcoming holiday season. Members of MADD will distribute more than 90,000,000 red ribbons nationwide to remind all those who might get behind the wheel to think before they drink.

To help heighten public awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 188, has designated November 1991 as "National Red Ribbon Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 1991 as National Red

Ribbon Month. I urge all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6375 of November 14, 1991

Dutch-American Heritage Day, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On November 16, 1776, a small American warship, the ANDREW DORIA, sailed into the harbor of the tiny Dutch island of St. Eustatius in the West Indies. Only 4 months before, the United States had declared its independence from Great Britain. The American crew was delighted when the Governor of the island, Johannes de Graaf, ordered that his fort's cannons be fired in a friendly salute. The first ever given by a foreign power to the flag of the United States, it was a risky and courageous act. Indeed, angered by Dutch trading of contraband with the rebellious colonies, the British seized the island a few years later. De Graaf's welcoming salute was also a sign of respect, and today it continues to symbolize the deep ties of friendship that exist between the United States and The Netherlands.

After more than 200 years, the bonds between the United States and The Netherlands remain strong. Our diplomatic ties, in fact, constitute one of the longest unbroken diplomatic relationships with any foreign country.

Fifty years ago, during the Second World War, Dutch and American servicemen fought side by side to defend the universal cause of freedom and democracy. As NATO allies, we have continued to stand together to keep the transatlantic partnership strong and to maintain the peace and security of Europe. In the Persian Gulf, we joined as coalition partners to repel aggression and to uphold the rule of law.

While the ties between the United States and The Netherlands have been tested by time and by the crucible of armed conflict, the Dutch-American heritage is even older than our official relationship. Indeed, it dates back to the early 17th century, when the Dutch West India Company founded New Netherland and its main settlements, New Amsterdam and Fort Orange—better known today as New York City and Albany.

From the earliest days of our Republic, men and women of Dutch ancestry have made important contributions to American history and culture. The influence of our Dutch ancestors can still be seen not only in New York's Hudson River Valley but also in Pennsylvania along the Schuylkill River and in communities like Holland, Michigan, where